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Message Text

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61
ORIGIN PM-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 NASA-04 DODE-00 SCI-06 COA-02

EA-11 EUR-25 SS-20 L-03 INR-10 RSC-01 (ISO) R

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P 202218Z MAR 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS PRIORITY
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 056021

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OCLR (USNS VANGUARD), TGEN
SUBJECT: NASA SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS FOR SYNCHRONOUS
METEOROLOGICAL SATELLITE (SMS) LAUNCHINGS

REF: A. LOURENCO MARQUES 0172 (NOTAL)
B. STATE 41809

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1. LAUNCHINGS OF SMS-A (NOW SCHEDULED NO EARLIER THAN 30

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MAY) AND SMS-B (NOW SCHEDULED JULY/AUGUST) REQUIRE CONTINUOUS MONITORING OF SATELLITE ORIENTATION DURING TRANSFER TO GEOSYNCHRONOUS ORBIT INSERTION USING SPECIAL EQUIPMENT INSTALLED EARLIER AT NASA'S TANANARIVE STATION. IN VIEW OF UNCERTAINTY AS TO OUTCOME AND TIMING OF CURRENT AGREEMENT ON RENEWAL NEGOTIATIONS, NASA EXTREMELY CONCERNED THAT, IN EVENT OF NEGATIVE DECISION ON PART GOMR, SUFFICIENT TIME WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE TO IMPLEMENT CONTINGENCY CAPABILITIES TO SUPPORT CURRENT IN-ORBIT SPACECRAFT AND NEW SPACECRAFT LAUNCHINGS IN PARTICULAR SMS.

2. CONSEQUENTLY, NASA MUST TAKE STEPS TO ENSURE COVERAGE FROM OTHER LOCATIONS AND HAS INITIATED ACTION TO RELOCATE TRACKING SHIP VANGUARD (AUGMENTED WITH ADDITIONAL INSTRUMENTATION) TO INDIAN OCEAN AND MOVE SMS ELECTRONICS RACKS FROM STATION IN US TO ORRORAL VALLEY STATION IN AUSTRALIA.

3. AS PART OF THIS CONTINGENCY CAPABILITY NASA INTENDS, BUT HAS NOT EXECUTED, THE RELOCATION OF THE SPECIAL SMS EQUIPMENT NOW INSTALLED AT TANANARIVE TO THE JOHANNESBURG STATION IN SOUTH AFRICA. TO MEET MAY SMS LAUNCH SCHEDULE, NASA CONSIDERS IT NECESSARY TO PHYSICALLY MOVE RACKS FROM TANANARIVE ABOUT APRIL 15.

4. THE ABOVE HAS BEEN COMMUNICATED TO MALAGASY OFFICIALS BY EMBASSY TANANARIVE IN EFFORT TO ESTABLISH WHETHER NASA WILL BE ABLE TO RELY ON STATION FOR SMS SUPPORT IRRESPECTIVE OF RENEWAL NEGOTIATION PROGRESS.

5. MOVEMENT OF SMS MISSION-PECULIAR RACKS TO JOHANNESBURG STATION, SHOULD THIS BE NECESSARY, WOULD BE NO DIFFERENT FROM USUAL MINOR CHANGES TO ALL STATIONS WHEN SPECIAL SATELLITE REQUIREMENTS NEED TO BE MET. IT WOULD HAVE NO AFFECT ON NASA PHASE-DOWN PLANS FOR THIS STATION.

6. IF DISCUSSIONS INDICATE TANANARIVE STATION CAN BE RELIED ON FOR SMS SUPPORT, NASA WOULD NOT DEPLOY VANGUARD TO AREA BECAUSE OF CONSIDERABLE COST INVOLVED.

7. MILITARY SEALIFT COMMAND (MSC), WHICH OPERATES SHIP
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FOR NASA, MADE INQUIRIES IN LOURENCO MARQUES AS PART OF ROUTINE CHECK OF AVAILABLE SERVICES, ALTHOUGH NASA REQUESTED THAT SUPPORT BE SOUGHT ONLY FROM POSTS SUBJECT TO PRIOR CLEARANCE BY DEPARTMENT. ALL FURTHER INQUIRIES WILL BE ADDRESSED THROUGH POSTS CONCERNED BY DEPARTMENT.
KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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To: LOURENCO MARQUES
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